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Korean Affairs Report

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18 February 1986

KOREAN AFFAIRS REPORT

CONTENTS

INTER-KOREAN AFFAIRS

Former Students Sentenced To Death for Spying for North (THE KOREA HERALD, 21 Jan 86).....	1
ROK Envoy to UN, Perez de Cuellar Discuss North-South Dialogue (YONHAP, 18 Jan 86).....	3
People's Endeavor Urged To Defend Nation (Editorial; THE KOREA HERALD, 23 Jan 86).....	4
Daily Views Soviet Foreign Minister's Visit to North (Editorial; THE KOREA HERALD, 25 Jan 86).....	5

OLYMPIC GAMES

State Advisors Urge United Efforts for 1986, 1988 Games (THE KOREA HERALD, 5 Feb 86).....	7
Chon Calls for Successful Hosting of Asian Games, Olympics (YONHAP, 4 Feb 86).....	9

SOUTH KOREA

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Chon on Studying Foreign Trade Laws To Handle Protectionism (THE KOREA HERALD, 31 Jan 86).....	10
Justice Minister Briefs Chon on New Year Policy (YONHAP, 30 Jan 86).....	11

Chon Calls for Campus Atmosphere for Academic Activities (THE KOREA HERALD, 30 Jan 86).....	13
Police Arrest Dissident for Antigovernment Activities (AFP, 30 Jan 86).....	14
Trials for Occupiers of DJP, AMCHAM Offices Postponed (THE KOREA HERALD, 30 Jan 86).....	15
Daily Urges Astute Preparations for Local Autonomy (Editorial; THE KOREA TIMES, 29 Jan 86).....	16
Courtroom Disturbances Stall Trial on DJP Seizure (THE KOREA TIMES, 28 Jan 86).....	18
Socialist Leader To Tie Up With NKDP for Campaign (THE KOREA TIMES, 29 Jan 86).....	19
NKDP Faction Leader Proposes 'Pan-National' Cabinet (THE KOREA TIMES, 28 Jan 86).....	20
Briefs	
Students in USIS Seizure Sentenced	21
Parties Contacts for Constitution Debate	21
NKDP on Constitution Revision Center	22
NKDP Rejects Party Leaders Meeting	22
'Travel Ban' Suit To Be Filed	22
SNU Rally Oppositionists Trial	22
Constitution Revision Signature Campaign	23
Two Kim's Interview With WASHINGTON POST	23
USIS Library Occupiers Prison Terms	23
NKDP Lawmakers' Trip Banned	24
SNU, Korea University Bar Students' Camps	24
DJP Dialogue With Two Kims Urged	24
Copyright Law Revision	24
Call for Parliamentary Diplomacy	25
MILITARY	
Defense Minister Reports to Chon on Policy for 1986 (YONHAP, 1 Feb 86).....	26
Chon Instructs Defense Ministry on National Security (YONHAP, 1 Feb 86).....	27
ECONOMY	
Trade, Industry Minister Briefs Chon on 1986 Policy Goals (YONHAP, 28 Jan 86).....	28
Eleven Industrial Complexes Planned for Small Businesses (THE KOREA TIMES, 4 Feb 86).....	30

'Employment Information Center' To Be Established (THE KOREA TIMES, 28 Jan 86).....	32
<hr/>	
SOCIAL CONDITIONS	
Police Launch 2-Week Crackdown on Violent Crimes (THE KOREA HERALD, 29 Jan 86).....	33
<hr/>	
MEDIA AND THE ARTS	
Briefs	
Newspaper, Press Agency Heads	35
DPA Chairman	35
<hr/>	
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	
Briefs	
AMCHAM Urges Software Copyright Protection	36
S&T Annual Report	36
Technology Innovation	36
<hr/>	
FOREIGN RELATIONS	
Country To Reject United Airlines' Request for Earlier Service (THE KOREA TIMES, 4 Feb 86).....	38
Abduction of Korean Diplomat in Beirut (various sources, various dates).....	39
Termed 'Intentional, Premeditated Crime'	39
No Progress in Finding Abductors	40
Missions Instructed for Possible Terrorism	40
KOREAN TIMES' Comment, Editorial	41
Further Efforts, Contacts	42
Motive for Kidnapping Unknown	43
Letter of Appeal	44
Grudge Not Factor in Kidnapping	44
Emergency Meeting Held	45
Rights Group Seeks Japan's Help on Sakhalin Koreans (YONHAP, 4 Feb 86).....	46
Foreign Minister Briefs DJP Officials on 86 Diplomacy (THE KOREA TIMES, 1 Feb 86).....	47
Prime Minister No's Diplomatic Tour (THE KOREA HERALD, 1 Feb 86; YONHAP, 31 Jan 86).....	50
Upcoming Trip, Editorial	49
Visit to India, Oceanic Countries	50

Briefs

Customs Administration	51
Condolences on Explosion of 'Challenger'	51
International Economic Conference	51
ROK, Japan Symposium on World Affairs	52
Ambassadors to Bahamas, YAR	52
Outgoing Peruvian Envoy	52
Language Training	52
Ambassador to Burkina Faso	52
Asian-African Consultative Meeting	52

FOREIGN TRADE

FKI Report Analyzes ROK's 1984 Exports to U.S., Others (YONHAP, 31 Jan 86).....	53
Album Industry Appeal Rejected by U.S. Commerce Department (YONHAP, 29 Jan 86).....	55
U.S. To Scrap Bilateral Textile Agreement With ROK, Others (YONHAP, 29 Jan 86).....	56
Trade With Arabs Reviewed (Chol Suh Kim Interview; DIYARUNA WA AL-'ALAM, Dec 85)....	57
Diplomatic Efforts Sought To Expand EC Economic Ties (THE KOREA TIMES, 28 Jan 86).....	61
Briefs	
Japanese Trade Mission Visits	63
KOTRA Report on 1985 Exports	63
Trade Minister to Swiss Economic Meeting	63

INTER-KOREAN AFFAIRS

FORMER STUDENTS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR SPYING FOR NORTH

SK210120 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Jan 86 p 8

[Text] Two former university students, Yang Tong-hwa and Kim Song-man, were sentenced to death yesterday on conviction of spying for North Korea.

The Seoul district Criminal Court also sentenced two other former college students, Hwang Tae-kwon and Kang Yong-chu, to life imprisonment for violating the National Security Law and other statutes. They were indicted last September.

Eleven others, mostly former university students, drew jail terms ranging from two to 15 years for conducting espionage activities for the Communist Pyongyang regime. The court suspended the execution of sentence for four of them for a period of four to five years.

Handing down the death sentence against Yang Tong-hwa, 27, senior judge Pak Man-ho said that he had evidently entered Pyongyang secretly through a third country and gained membership to the North Korean Workers (Communist) Party.

After undergoing espionage training in the north, the judge said, Yang had returned to the south and been bent on recruiting many college students in Kwangju, Chollanam-do, to the cause of the Pyongyang regime was the main purpose of instigating another Kwangju incident of 1920.

Yang was expelled from the privately run Chosun University in Kwangju in his second year in 1980.

He, also with Kim Song-man who also drew the death sentence, once attended Western Illinois University before being recruited by So Chong-kyun, publisher of an anti-Seoul daily based in New York.

Kim Song-man, a graduate of Yonsei University, visited Budapest, Hungary in June 1983 and received spying education for four days at the North Korean Embassy there, according to the indictment against Kim.

Kim was convicted of instigating college students for anti-America demonstrations, while producing and distributing leaflets praising North Korea.

Hwang Tae-kwon, who drew life imprisonment, along with Kang Yong-chu, also had once been enrolled in the graduate school of Western Illinois University and recruited as a North Korean agent by So Chongkyun.

A 1982 graduate of Seoul National University College of Agriculture Hwang, 30, returned to Seoul on December 7, 1983, with instructions by So on fomenting a revolution in South Korea.

After returning to South Korea, Hwang had established contacts with radical students to incite them for antigovernment rallies and demonstrations.

Kang, meanwhile, graduated from Chonnam National University in Kwangju.

Kim Chang-kyu, a senior at Songkyungwan University, and Chong Kum-taek, who attends the graduate school of Kugmin University, were sentenced to 15 years in jail, after being found guilty of espionage activities.

Jail terms ranging from three to 10 years were imposed on five persons.

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CSO: 4100/073

INTER-KOREAN AFFAIRS

ROK ENVOY TO UN, PEREZ DE CUELLAR DISCUSS NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

SK180744 Seoul YONHAP in English 0625 GMT 18 Jan 86

[Text] New York, January 17 (OANA-YONHAP)--South Korea's Ambassador to the United Nations, Choe Kwang-su, and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday discussed the on-and-off dialogue between South and North Korea.

In a 30-minute meeting, Choe explained recent developments in the Inter-Korean dialogue, including parliamentarian, Red Cross and sports talks, as well as Korea's position on the upcoming annual U.S.-Korean military exercise "Team Spirit '86."

Choe noted that the maneuver is defensive and that Seoul has invited Pyongyang to send observers to South Korea to observe the exercise every year since 1982, North Korea has never accepted the offer, however.

The ambassador also said that Pyongyang's recent demand that Washington and Seoul cancel the large-scale military drill is apparently a propaganda ploy.

On January 11, North Korea urged South Korea not to carry out the military exercise, saying it had already canceled a military drill that had been scheduled to begin on February 1.

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INTER-KOREAN AFFAIRS

PEOPLE'S ENDEAVOR URGED TO DEFEND NATION

SK230144 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Jan 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Vigil Against N.K. Infiltration"]

[Text] Eighteen years after the intrusion of a North Korean commando squad deep into the capital city close to the presidential mansion of Chongwadae it is more than dismaying to find the war machine in Pyongyang no less bellicose and destructive than before.

The Communist hierarchy has been slave-driving its captive population in the north in a reckless campaign of building up arsenals against South Korea. The faltering economy of North Korea under which our northern compatriots are reduced to misery is rightly blamed on its lavishing one-quarter of its gross national product upon military spending.

For this reason we in the South cannot afford to let down our vigil and preparedness against new sabotage or armed provocation by North Koreans despite their whimsical yet sugar-coated profession and gesture of peace.

Therefore, the annual convocation of a strategy meeting of military commanders and civilian officers in charge of combating espionage and infiltration on the anniversary of the January 21 incident is most timely and meaningful. The occasion serves as a grim reminder to keep the nation on guard.

As President Chon Tu-hwan told the meeting held this week, Pyongyang is likely to attempt various acts of terrorism and infiltration to disrupt the Asian Games scheduled for this autumn in Seoul. Obstruction of such major international events is not all.

The ultimate aim of North Korean Communists is to take over and communize the South along their established revolutionary lines. Our successful conducting of the Asian and the 1988 Olympic Games will unnerve North Koreans so that they may have second thoughts about their scheme of conquest.

The concept of total security raised by the President is especially worthy of note and actualization. He called on people from all walks of life to join in an all-out endeavor to defend the country without relying solely on the armed forces. It is time to close our ranks on the basis of stability and harmony.

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CSO: 4100/073

INTER-KOREAN AFFAIRS

DAILY VIEWS SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO NORTH

SK250023 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Jan 86 p 4

[Editorial: "P'yang-Moscow Collaboration"]

[Text] With Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze winding up his four-day visit to North Korea this week, Pyongyang and Moscow claimed that both sides reached a "complete consensus" on the issues discussed, a description in contrast with the apprehensive atmosphere that had prevailed on his prior trip to Japan.

In a sense, such a claim had been anticipated, since the Moscow leader's visit to Pyongyang, the first ever made by a Soviet foreign minister, was widely regarded as aimed more at displaying a symbolic meaning than at undertaking serious business talks, in light of the honeymoon the Communist states have enjoyed in recent years.

Nonetheless, the visit produced a noteworthy result, as the two sides stressed in their joint communique that they had agreed to further strengthen and upgrade bilateral collaboration in all fields, based on their treaty of "cooperation and mutual assistance," that has a strong military implication.

Since Kim Il-song visited Moscow nearly two years ago, North Korea's relations with the Soviet Union have become conspicuously closer, at the expense of its ties with neighboring China, particularly in the military aspect.

The Soviets have stepped up the supply of sophisticated weapons to North Korea, ranging from MIG-23 jet fighters to SA-3 surface-to-air missiles, in return for flyover rights for Soviet military aircraft and permission for port calls by Russian naval vessels. More recently, Moscow agreed to build a nuclear power plant in North Korea.

Against this backdrop, the latest accord to further strengthen Pyongyang-Moscow collaboration cannot but be taken as an ominous development, augmenting the Communist threat to South Korea and potentially destabilizing the already-precarious situation on the Korean peninsula.

Another notable outcome of Shevardnadze's visit was the North Korean endorsement of the Kremlin's latest proposal for an Asian security arrangements, a dubious overture that has met a cool response, if not outright rejection, from most Asian countries, including China and some other Communist states.

If the agreement constitutes another indication of North Korea's swing from China to the Soviet Union, keen attention should also be addressed to the implications of the growing Pyongyang-Moscow tie-ups in the dimension of international politics, for its probable consequence of a greater Soviet voice on the Korea question.

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OLYMPIC GAMES

STATE ADVISORS URGE UNITED EFFORTS FOR 1986, 1988 GAMES

SK050045 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] Members of the Advisory Council on State Affairs yesterday called on the nation to make "united and harmonious" efforts for the successful staging of the 1986 Asiad and the 1988 Olympics as well as the peaceful power transfer.

They said they shared the view with President Chon Tu-hwan who emphasized in his New Year policy statement that the historic mission to be undertaken by the nation in the late 1980s is the successful realization of the peaceful change of government and the two international sports events.

In a special meeting of the advisory group at its conference room in Samchong-dong, the elder statesmen served a warning against any debate or strife which might bring about dispersion and weakness of the national strength.

They then called for the strengthening of the cooperation and harmony among the people in the face of the "two important national tasks." Former President Choe Kyu-ha chairs the 26-member presidential advisory group.

"We should exert all-out efforts to make the peaceful power change and the two world sports festivals as an opportunity for the take-off and development of the Korean nation," they said.

The council members noted Pyongyang's scheme and subversive activities to disturb the Asiad and the Olympics both to be held in Seoul.

"In this situation," they went on, "we should do away with internal strife. If the events should fail, it would be a lasting regret to our nation," they said.

"Whether we can successfully host the two sports events would become a touchstone to determine whether the Republic of Korea would become a member of the group of the advanced nations," they viewed.

Efforts for the successful hosting of the sports gatherings should be made in all fields, including politics, economy, defense, society and culture, they said.

In the meantime, Choe said, "All problems emerging in the course of peaceful power transfer and the two sports events should be dealt with in accordance with their significance and priority."

We should keep in mind the historical lesson that political, economic and social development cannot be made without the social stability and order, he said.

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OLYMPIC GAMES

CHON CALLS FOR SUCCESSFUL HOSTING OF ASIAN GAMES, OLYMPICS

SK040954 Seoul YONHAP in English 0925 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)--South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan Tuesday called on the nation to concentrate all its capabilities on successfully hosting the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Olympics, which he said are "stepping stones for Korea's take-off toward an advanced country, not only in sports but in the political, economic, social, cultural and diplomatic fields."

After hearing a new year policy briefing presented by Sports Minister Pak Se-chik, Chon urged Koreans to prepare thoroughly for the 1986 Asian Games, which he said will be the "touchstone" for the 1988 Olympics, in order to ensure that the 1986 Asiad is the "most successful and exemplary in Asian Games history."

Chon instructed all government agencies and pertinent organizations to further strengthen cooperation among themselves and to give top priority to preparing for the Asian Games.

The president directed the sports minister to complete construction at competition sites and convenience facilities, as planned, to improve the management of sports events, to prepare cultural events that will show the uniqueness and excellence of Korean culture, and to take safety measures.

In addition, Chon said that the pan-national Olympic committee should conduct a nationwide campaign to promote public order, kindness and cleanliness.

Chon also asked the sports minister to boost the competitive power of Korean athletes and to achieve good results in the Asian Games.

He called on the ministry to prepare thoroughly for the general assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees, to be held here in April.

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S.KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

CHON ON STUDYING FOREIGN TRADE LAWS TO HANDLE PROTECTIONISM

SK310038 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] President Chon Tu-hwan directed the Ministry of Justice yesterday to redouble efforts to study trade laws of foreign countries to effectively cope with protectionism and trade pressure.

Chon also called for active efforts to obtain information on international laws.

The President also instructed the ministry to endeavor to improve the treatment and legal status of Korean residents overseas by enhancing cooperation with Korean and foreign lawyers in foreign countries.

He issued these and other directives after receiving a report from the ministry on law-enforcement programs for this years.

Chon urged the ministry to crack down on those disrupting legal order or challenging the supremacy of the law, whatever their status or positions.

He stressed that national discipline should be firmly established by dealing sternly with violations of laws, with a view to safeguarding the constitutional system.

"Antistate criminals, who challenge legal order, should be thoroughly ferreted out and punished. National security and social stability should be maintained by coping resolutely with violent destructive acts and unlawful collective acts," he said.

The President instructed the ministry to seek cooperation from relevant organizations in trying to eradicate antisocial crimes.

He said that basic laws and decrees which affect the livelihood of the people should continue to be revamped in such a way as to promote the people's rights and welfare.

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S.KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

JUSTICE MINISTER BRIEFS CHON ON NEW YEAR POLICY

SK300328 Seoul YONHAP in English 0247 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)--South Korea's top law enforcement official said Thursday that the government will crack down on all offenses leading to "anti-democratic chaos and reform" on the pretext of debate for constitutional revision.

In his new year policy briefing to President Chon Tu-hwan, Justice Minister Kim Song-ki said he will "resolutely deal with acts disturbing constitutional order while carrying out the government's determination to protect the constitution."

Kim also said he will "crack down on anti-national offenders and collective movements by scraping out insurgent and illegal acts of some politicians, religious figures and workers; by eradicating leftist indoctrination activities from university campuses, by chasing and clarifying malignant rumors; and by strictly dealing with attempts to perpetuate views through illegal means, such as collective disturbances, seizing facilities, and acts of arson."

The justice minister said he will exercise the right of prosecution in a way that will "fulfill his duty as the pillar of the sovereignty."

To cope more efficiently with social and economic development and changing crime patterns, Kim continued, the Justice Ministry will work out drafts to revise the criminal code, the juvenile act, the civil proceedings act and the commercial code.

Kim also said his ministry will thoroughly control bribery and other irregularities involving government officials and will prevent classified information from being leaker, in order to promote clean government.

Regarding the legal welfare of the people, Kim said, the Justice Ministry will expand the number of people who benefit from the government's legal aid by employing full-time lawyers and will study ways to help felony victims through damage compensation systems.

In addition, Kim said his ministry will supplement the immigration control system to prevent international terrorists from sneaking into the country and to improve immigration procedures for citizens of countries with which Korea does not have diplomatic relations.

To promote the 1986 Asian Games, Kim said, the Justice Ministry will simplify immigration procedures and will set up exclusive immigration counters for the participating athletes and officials.

Furthermore, those who carry identification cards issued by the organizing committee will be exempted from the entry visa requirement, Kim said.

The ministry will also extend the period of stay for those who enter Korea without visas from 15 days now to 30 days, Kim said.

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S.KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

CHON CALLS FOR CAMPUS ATMOSPHERE FOR ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

SK300106 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 30 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] President Cjon Tu-hwan yesterday reiterated his call for the elimination of all kinds of social disturbances, including campus unrest, with a view to establishing social discipline and stability.

He said that all physically handicapped people should be provided with equal opportunities for education.

During a New Year educational policy briefing session at Chongwadae, the President emphasized the need for the establishment of campus atmosphere favorable to academic activities. Minister of Education Son Chae-sok gave the briefings to President Chon.

"Campuses cannot be 'areas of extraterritoriality.' The campus autonomy can bring about a successful outcome only when the law and order are respected in campus," Chon said.

He said that the campus unrest should be rooted out in the initial stage by blocking any subversive, illegal activities in campus.

It is to be regretted that campus demonstration has become an "annual activity," thus inviting social unrest and adversely affecting the development of the national economy and the people's livelihood, he said.

Touching on the issue concerning the admission into the college of physically disabled students, the Chief Executive directed the ministry to work out effective measures to do away with any disputes over the problem.

"As far as they are eligible for college education in terms of physical condition, the physically disabled should be given equal opportunities for education," President Chon said.

Stressing the need for the development of colleges in provincial areas, the President said it will help bring about the balanced development among regions, and between urban and rural areas.

The presidential directives included the intensification of spiritual education for all the people and the strengthening of the ethics education in all levels of school.

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S.KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

POLICE ARREST DISSIDENT FOR ANTIGOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

HK300958 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Seoul, Jan 29 (AFP)--Police have arrested South Korea dissident leader the Reverend Moon Ik-hwan [name as received] in connection with alleged anti-government activities, dissident sources said today.

Plainclothes police forcibly removed the 69-year-old Presbyterian minister from his home here late yesterday, according to a press release from the organization he leads, the United Minjung (People) Movement for Democracy and Unification (UMMDU).

Rev. Moon has been jailed for a total of six years since the 1970's for anti-government activities.

President Chon Tu-hwan warned two weeks ago that all activities seen as being anti-government, including the movement against the Constitution, would be resolutely dealt with.

The UMMDU is conducting a nationwide campaign calling for a "democratic Constitution by opposing the military dictatorship", the UMMDU statement said.

Six leading UMMDU members including Public Relations Director Park Kye-dong [name as received] were arrested this month and given 10-day jail sentences after summary trials.

Opposition and disdident circles are demanding a constitutional amendment to pave the way for presidential elections through direct popular vote. However, Mr. Chon wants debate on the issue delayed until after his tenure ends in 1988.

Meanwhile, UMMDU Vice-President Kye Hoon-jai [name as received], 65, was placed under house arrest by police to prevent him from attending a public trial for Kim Kun-tae [name as received], a dissident activist charged with allegedly engaging in pro-communist activities.

The U.S. State Department recently expressed concern that the 38-year-old Kim had been tortured during police interrogation.

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S.KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

TRIALS FOR OCCUPIERS OF DJP, AMCHAM OFFICES POSTPONED

SK300053 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 30 Jan 86 p 8

[Text] Trials for students involved in the seizure of the Democratic Justice Party's Central Political Training Institute and the American Chamber of Commerce office have been postponed for one or two weeks.

The Seoul District Criminal Court put off the trial at the request of the prosecution which said "a cool-off period is necessary as defendants are in a state of extreme excitement."

The postponement came after the opening trial Monday for four Ewha Woman's and five Yonsei University students was marred by disturbances created by the defendants. The nine were among the 82 college students indicted and waiting for trial for the seizure of the training institute on Nov. 18.

At the request of the prosecution, the court administration postponed the trial for defendants involved in the occupation of the AMCHAM building on Nov. 4 to Feb. 4. The trial was originally scheduled for Tuesday.

The trial for five Songgyungwan University students and six Korea University students, set for yesterday, was rescheduled for Feb. 12. They are part of the 82 defendants involved in the intrusion into the training institute.

The trial for eight Sogang University students, involved in the same case, will be held Feb. 13 instead of today.

During the period, the prosecution plans to dissuade the defendants from creating disturbances and advise them to behave themselves in the courtroom.

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S.KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

DAILY URGES ASTUTE PREPARATIONS FOR LOCAL AUTONOMY

SK290205 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Jan 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Steps for Local Autonomy"]

[Text] The nation's local autonomy system, which has been suspended for about 25 years since the military revolution in 1961, is scheduled to be reviewed next year, according to an agreement reached in November 1984 between the government and opposition political forces.

Consequently, the government began studying the issue in accordance with a timetable to work out a draft plan to implement the self-government system by this coming May, now less than four months away.

Notwithstanding the pros and cons voiced over the autonomy, it is regrettable that the people's right to participate in their local affairs had to be restricted for the past two and a half decades.

The success or failure of local autonomy, due to be revived next year, is also likely to have a vital impact on future national politics in and after 1988, when a peaceful transfer of governmental power is to take place.

However, detailed preparations for reviving local autonomy seems to have been sluggish, although not shelved, while the rival parties have been in sharp confrontation with each other over the outstanding political issue related to the opposition demand for a constitutional amendment in favor of direct presidential elections.

In this regard, both political parties and the administration are urged to step up astute preparations for reinstating local autonomy without delay.

Some news reports had it that local autonomy would be limited in its initial stage to a few special cities or provinces as test cases, with political parties to be banned from participating in the provincial elections required for autonomy, or on condition that heads of the local self-governing bodies continue to be appointed by the central government.

These limitation, though reportedly raised as intermediate steps, potentially involve debate over the effect of a local autonomy system, which is essential to democracy.

The National Assembly and government authorities are advised to expedite open discussion of the issue, so as to fully reflect public opinion in restoring the local autonomy system.

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S.KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

COURTROOM DISTURBANCES STALL TRIAL ON DJP SEIZURE

SK280123 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Jan 86 p 8

[Text] Courtroom disturbances by defendants, who declared to deny court proceedings and chanted anti-government slogans, interrupted a hearing on nine students yesterday, the first group to stand trial among the 82 students arrested and indicated in connection with the seizure of the ruling DJP's institute on Nov. 18.

Due to the chaos, senior judge An Mun-tae, heading a three-member panel of the Seoul District Criminal Court, had to put the trial into recess several times and skip the procedure of examination of the accused by both prosecutors and defense lawyers.

The defendants contended that the prosecution distorted their sacred struggle for democratization as "guerrilla-style" violence and the trial was based on "absurd charges."

"We are determined to reject the trial until our demands are met. We call for the abolition of the current "fascist" constitution and the government's apology for its harsh action of putting all of the participants in the seizure under arrest," said Miss Yi Chi-suk, a junior majoring in pharmaceutics at Ewha Woman's University.

The nine defendants are four coeds from Ewha Woman's University and five from Yonsei University. Their hearings were held in the morning and in the afternoon, respectively.

In the morning session, senior Judge An tried in vain to assuage them, saying, "It would be disadvantageous to you if disturbances force the court panel to limit opportunities for you to express your thoughts."

He ordered the accused out of the courtroom and called them in one by one to ask each about her opinion. All of the four persisted in refusing the trial.

The hearing was attended by some 40 family members and friends, who remained quiet through the session.

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S.KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

SOCIALIST LEADER TO TIE UP WITH NKDP FOR CAMPAIGN

SK290159 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] Kim Chol, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, said yesterday that his party will tie up with opposition forces for the signature-collecting campaign for constitutional revision.

In a news conference, the head of the splinter party which no no Assembly seats, noted that the reintroduction of the direct presidential election system is "not necessarily the most desirable" on the amendment of the basic law.

"We believe that the parliamentary government system is preferable. But we will accept (the presidential government type) if the possibility of dictatorship by the President is eliminated and human rights are guaranteed explicitly," Kim said.

He then asserted that a compromise on the revision of the supreme law should be made between rival parties by Aug. 15, this year, the 41st anniversary of the national liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

"The (ruling party's) proposal to shelve the debate on constitutional reform until after 1988 is unreasonable and if the government tries to enforce it, there will only be social unrest," he stressed.

He went on that a national body like the pan-national council for supporting the Asian Games and the Olympics should be formed on the basis of the democratization of the nation.

He maintained that the projected local autonomy system should be implemented "across the nation" in 1987 to advance the realization of democracy here.

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CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

NKDP FACTION LEADER PROPOSES 'PAN-NATIONAL' CABINET

SK280055 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] Rep. Yi Chol-sung, head of a minor faction in the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party, yesterday proposed that a "pan-national" cabinet be formed to cope with the current political situation, which he claimed is in an "emergency" state.

At a press meet at his private office, Yi said that the transitional cabinet should be composed of representatives from all walks of life and should exist till 1988.

He then suggested that the projected local autonomy system be implemented across the nation in 1987.

A parliamentary election, he went on, should be held in 1988, a year earlier than currently scheduled, and the President should be elected by the new National Assembly.

To this end, Yi proposed that the pan-national cabinet prepare amendments to the Constitution and various election statutes.

He also suggested that an ad hoc committee on the revision of the supreme law be formed within the House to deliberate on the basic law revision bills submitted by the temporary cabinet.

Making the four-point proposal, Yi said that his suggestion will help rival parties avoid sharp confrontations.

As to the ruling Democratic Justice Party's proposal to cease "political strife" until after 1988 and to form a pan-national council for supporting the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Olympics, Yi said, "It is difficult to wash away doubts that the DJP seeks to prolong its grip on power."

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CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

BRIEFS

STUDENTS IN USIS SEIZURE SENTENCED--Seoul, Feb 4. (OANA-YONHAP)--The Seoul Court of Appeals Tuesday sentenced 15 of the 19 students who seized the U.S. Information Service building here last May and staged an anti-government sit-in to prison terms ranging from two to five years. Tuesday's rulings, handed down by senior Judge Kim Chu-sang, were one or two years less than those handed down by a lower court. Four "simple participants" in the sit-in downtown Seoul drew suspended sentences of three years and were set free from jail. The defendants, who are from five universities in Seoul, were sentenced to prison terms for breaking the law governing assembly and demonstration, the law on obstruction of justice and the law covering violence. The judge said the sentences were reduced for the defendants because they behaved themselves in court and because they did not resort to hostage-taking, arson or other violent acts during the weeklong sit-in. Ham Won-kyon, 22, chairman of Seoul National University's "Sammin Struggle Committee," an underground campus organization, was sentenced to five years in prison for violating the national security law. During his election campaign for student council president, Ham asserted that "Yankees should be made to go home," an assertion, found additionally guilty of violating the national security law, thereby abetting Pyongyang's aim to bring about the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Korea, according to the judge. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT 4 Feb 86 SK] /6662

PARTIES CONTACTS FOR CONSTITUTION DEBATE--Rival political parties are likely to start off-the-scene contacts this week to ascertain each other's position on the proposed moratorium on debates on the propriety of revising the Constitution. The Democratic Justice Party and the New Korea Democratic Party are expected to seek meeting of their leaders, depending on the result of the contacts. A DJP source predicted yesterday that the leaders of major political parties might get together next week to arrange a party for National Assembly Speaker Yi Chae-hyong who embarks on an overseas tour early next month. The source said that the secretaries general of political parties might soon meet to create the mood for the party leaders' meeting. Meanwhile, political observers said rival parties might hold frequent informal contacts this week to sound out the possibility of narrowing differences over the proposed moratorium. In his New Year press conference Saturday, NKDP president Yi Min-u rejected the DJP's overture for a three-year halt to "political confrontation." Yi, however, left open the room for dialogue with the ruling party. The two major parties are at odds over whether to amend the basic law. The opposition party is threatening to mount a signature-collection drive next month to push its constitutional revision efforts. [Text][Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 28 Jan 86 p 1 SK] /6662

NKDP ON CONSTITUTION REVISION CENTER--The major opposition New Korea Democratic Party yesterday made regulations of the Constitutional Revision Center in preparation for the full-dress campaign for the amendment to the basic law. The regulations were approved by the Executive Council, the top decision-making body of the opposition party. At the center will be formed the offices for constitutional revision promotion, floor strategy, deliberation and coordination, human rights coordination and spokesmen. The Executive Council also decided finally to replace the chiefs of 27 local chapters who were defeated in the parliamentary elections last February. The NDP will receive applications for the chiefs of the "troublesome" local chapters from today and begin to appoint new chiefs on Feb. 10. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Feb 86 p 1 SK] /6662

NKDP REJECTS PARTY LEADERS MEETING--A meeting of ruling and opposition party leaders is not likely to be held for the time being as the major opposition New Korea Democratic Party leader showed reluctance to join such a get-together. The political leaders' meeting has been promoted by the Office of the Prime Minister in the form of a farewell party for House speaker Yi Chae-hyong who leaves here for a visit to three Latin American countries on Feb. 11. Rep. Kim Tong-kyu, chief secretary to the NDP president, said yesterday that NDP president Yi Min-u rejected the meeting when he was told that it was being planned for Wednesday. But the party spokesman, Rep. Hong Sa-tok, did not rule out a private meeting between the NDP president and the House speaker. A senior official of the DJP said that only leaders of the ruling camp are expected to join the farewell party for the House speaker. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Feb 86 p 1 SK] /6662

'TRAVEL BAN' SUIT TO BE FILED--Nine lawmakers of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party and four other opposition figures yesterday filed an administration suit against the minister of justice, claiming the overseas travel ban imposed on them by the minister is void. The 13, including Reps. Sin Su-pom and Pak Chan-chong, have been indicted for their involvement either in the violence at the National Assembly or in other activities allegedly inciting student disturbances late last year. The minister earlier banned them from making overseas trips in accordance with the Exit and Entry Management Law that empowers the minister to deny the overseas travel by those who are feared to "conspicuously damage" the national interest. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Feb 86 p 8 SK] /6662

SNU RALLY OPPOSITIONISTS TRIAL--The trial for six opposition figures indicted for instigating campus unrest was opened at the Seoul District Criminal Court yesterday. The six persons, including Kim Pyong-o, deputy secretary of the Council for Promotion of Democracy, are accused of instigating campus disturbances by participating in a "grand people's discussion" held at the Seoul National University campus last Nov. 21. In reply to questions by senior prosecutor Sin Kwang-ok, Kim and other defendants admitted that they took part in the gathering organized by a student activist group. But they said that they had no intention to stir up students to take to the streets. Watching the trial in the audience gallery were some 100 opposition politicians, including New Korea Democratic Party president Yi Min-u. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Jan 86 p 8 SK] /6662

CONSTITUTION REVISION SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN--Seoul, Jan. 31 (YONHAP)--Rep. Hong Sa-tok, spokesman for South Korea's major opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), Friday said his party will not hesitate, if necessary, to stage a judicial struggle for its planned campaign for constitutional revision. Hong said in a statement that his party's campaign to collect the signatures of 10 million Koreans who support constitutional revision is a totally lawful part of the democratic struggle. The NKDP, despite repeated government warnings, has pledged to go ahead with its signature collecting campaign nationwide next month. He was commenting on Justice Minister Kim Song-ki's statement calling for stern punishment against those who try to instigate anti-democratic chaos or to achieve reform by riding on the controversy surrounding the issue of constitutional amendment. In his new year policy briefing to President Chon Tu-hwan at Chon's residence, Kim said all activities endangering national security and social stability will be blocked to safeguard the democratic constitutional system. Violators will be severely dealt with, regardless of their positions or ranks, Kim said. The opposition party has demanded that the ruling camp amend the existing constitution to ensure the direct election of the president by popular vote. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0750 GMT 31 Jan 86 SK] /6662

TWO KIM'S INTERVIEW WITH WASHINGTON POST--Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam, co-chairmen of the Council for the Promotion of Democracy, explained the contents of their Jan. 27 interview with Katharine Graham, WASHINGTON POST chairwoman, at a regular meeting of the Standing Steering Committee of the CPD yesterday. Kim Yong-sam said that he stressed the necessity of the democratization of Korea in the interview, drawing a lesson from the fall of the South Vietnamese government. Kim Tae-chung pointed out that the U.S. State Department has denied the report by the WASHINGTON POST that the United States supports the current indirect presidential election system in Korea. It was notable that Kim Sang-hyon, who has been on bad terms with Kim Tae-chung since the Oct. 28 election of vice House speaker, attended the meeting. Kim Sang-hyon supported Rep. Cho Yon-ha to be elected vice House speaker, defeating the opposition party's formal candidate, Rep. Yi Yong-hui, nominated by Kim Tae-chung. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Jan 86 p 4 SK] /6662

USIS LIBRARY OCCUPIERS PRISON TERMS--The prosecution at an appellate trial yesterday demanded prison terms ranging from five to 10 years for 19 defendants involved in the seizure of the USIS library in Seoul last May. This was the same amount of terms the prosecution sought against Ham Un-kyong, 22, former chairman of Seoul National University's radical student group "Sammintu," and 18 others during the lower court trial in September last year. Prosecutor Chang Ung-su demanded a 10-year term for Ham and Kim Min-sok, chairman of the SNU student council, and seven years for 10 others. He requested five years for the remaining defendants. The defendants were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to seven years by the lower court early in October. During yesterday's trial, Song Kon-ho, a senior journalist, testified that he believed the defendants staged the rally in the U.S. facility "to demand a realignment in the Korean-American relations." Song said he does not believe the incident stemmed from a toadyism and damaged the national self-respect. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 29 Jan 86 p 8 SK] /6662

NKDP LAWMAKER'S TRIP BANNED--The Ministry of Justice yesterday banned Rep. Yi Chol of the opposition New Korea Democratic Party from leaving the country for an overseas trip. Yi is one of the seven opposition lawmakers who have been indicted for violence at the National Assembly early December. Rep. Yi was scheduled to attend a religious conference in Washington Feb. 2. The travel restriction was taken in accordance with Clause 431 of the Exit and Entry Management Law which stipulates that the minister of justice is authorized to ban the overseas travel by a person whose activities abroad are feared to conspicuously harm the national interest. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 28 Jan 86 p 8 SK] /6662

SNU, KOREA UNIVERSITY BAR STUDENTS' CAMPS--Seoul National and Korea Universities yesterday closed their school gates to prevent student activists from holding unauthorized winter camps allegedly designed to sharpen their ideology indoctrination. The temporary closure at the state-run Seoul National University is aimed at discouraging students from opening the ideology-oriented camp titled "Minju Kwangjang" (Plaza of Democracy). Until tomorrow, the university will close the school library and control the entry of students and visitors at its front and rear gates. For similar reasons, Korea University also started restricting the entry onto the campus of visitors and students from other schools. At its front gate, the private school posted a notice, which read, "Visitors are not allowed to enter the campus for the time being." [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 28 Jan 86 p 8 SK] /6662

DJP DIALOGUE WITH TWO KIMS URGED--DJP chairman No Tae-u visited the office of Constitutional Lawmakers' Fraternity Club yesterday to consult oldtime politicians on ways of realizing "grand politics" proposed by President Chon Tu-hwan. During the one-hour free talk session, No and retired senior politicians exchanged frank views on the nation's political situation. Yi Sang-ton, a club member, advised that the ruling party should show more tolerance toward opposition parties. Won Chang-kil said the DJP has to seek dialogue with Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam, who are "practical" leaders of the opposition NKDP. Stressing the importance of a peaceful power transfer, No said, "There are still people who are suspicious of President Chon Tu-hwan's will to retire when his term of office expires in 1988. But there's no room for doubt about it." At the end of the visit, No said he will bear the advice of the political veterans in mind, and asked for their help for the success of his year's Asiad and the Olympics in 1988. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 29 Jan 86 p 4 SK] /6662

COPYRIGHT LAW REVISION--Seoul, Feb 1 (YONHAP)--The Korean Government and the ruling Democratic Justice Party plan to overhaul the present copyright law and submit a draft revision to the National Assembly for approval in March. The revised law would extend the period of protection for foreign copyrights and would guarantee the public use, of foreign publications for research, criticism or dissemination by the news media, a government source said Saturday. It would also allow the establishment of a foreign copyright consignment management system and would protect foreign publications that have already been reproduced in Korea, even before Korea joins the two international copyright conventions. The Democratic Justice Party plans to hold public hearings to help draw up the planned revision of the copyright law. Korea has come

under strong pressure from the United States to protect intellectual property rights, including copyrights. The source called the U.S. demand that Korea retroactively safeguard foreign copyrights "unreasonable." The United States, the source said, did not protect foreign copyrights retroactively until 1955, and has not yet joined the Bern Convention, which contains a retroactive protective clause. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0625 GMT 1 Feb 85 SK] /6662

CALL FOR PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY--Yi Tae-ku, leader of the New Conservative Club, said yesterday that a parliamentary government system should be implemented "to revive parliamentary democracy." He said that the system is necessary to "prevent political retaliation and one-man dictatorship." Yi made the remarks in a New Year news conference, in which he demanded that discussions on the Constitution be continued in the National Assembly. "Constitutional amendment is a national consensus, and it is for a common good," he asserted. Yi urged that the government and the ruling Democratic Justice Party effect a nationwide local autonomy system by the first half of 1987. "We agree on the idea of establishing pan-national organizations for supporting '86 Asian Games and the '88 Olympics, and the inter-Korea talks," Yi added. The club is composed of 12 lawmakers who defected from the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party last December. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Feb 86 p 1 SK] /6662

CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/MILITARY

DEFENSE MINISTER REPORTS TO CHON ON POLICY FOR 1986

SK010402 Seoul YONHAP in English 0315 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (OANA-YONHAP)--South Korea will focus its defense efforts this year on establishing a posture to prevent North Korea from launching a military attack on it and on smashing any North Korean aggression, Defense Minister Yi Ki-paek said Saturday.

South Korea's armed forces will strengthen their combined war potential with U.S. forces stationed here, in response to North Korea's recent build-up of military power, Defense Minister Yi said.

Reporting to President Chon Tu-hwan on the ministry's 1986 policy, Yi said that North Korea is prepared to blitz the South and to launch a full-scale war.

North Korea recently set up five mechanized corps and one artillery corps. In addition, it has received from the Soviet Union or has produced on its own new weapons, including T62 tanks, SA3 missiles and MiG-23 jets, Yi said.

He went on to say that the Defense Ministry and the armed forces will fully support the successful hosting of the 1986 Asian Games and will establish sufficient defensive power to thwart North Korean attacks by 1987.

As part of its plan to develop an early warning defense system, Yi said that the armed forces will build more anti-aircraft weapons this year.

Before 1988, the ministry plans to establish a defense system to protect against chemical warfare waged by Pyongyang, according to the top defense official.

Yi said his ministry will strengthen the capability of the homeland reservists, improve the quality of military supplies and develop the defense industry.

The Defense Ministry will also try to computerize all the military administrative activities by 1990, he added.

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S.KOREA/MILITARY

CHON INSTRUCTS DEFENSE MINISTRY ON NATIONAL SECURITY

SK010938 Seoul YONHAP in English 0930 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)--President Chon Tu-hwan Saturday instructed the Defense Ministry to do its utmost to ensure self-reliant potentiality intended to deter the recurrence of a war on the Korean peninsula.

The president said factors that could endanger national security are expected to increase more than ever this year, considering the latest military developments surrounding the peninsula.

Chon made the remarks after receiving a report on this year's defense policy from Defense Minister Yi Ki-paek.

Chon said efforts should be exerted continuously to develop a self-defense plan to cope with a chemical warfare, since there is growing fear the enemy may mount a surprise attack on the country, using chemical weapons.

Chon said efficient training programs and ways to inspire high morale in the military should be developed, noting the military strength is dependent upon not only the weaponry and equipment, but also the morale and motivation of the soldiers.

The president also directed the ministry to develop a more efficient logistics system, suitable to the Korean situations.

He went on to stress that the military should be perfectly ready and prepared at all times to ensure the successful staging of the upcoming 1986 Seoul Asian Games.

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S.KOREA/ECONOMY

TRADE, INDUSTRY MINISTER BRIEFS CHON ON 1986 POLICY GOALS

SK280918 Seoul YONHAP in English 0730 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 28 (OANA-YONHAP)--South Korea intends to turn its trade balance into a surplus this year for the first time in history, Trade and Industry Minister Kum Chin-ho said Tuesday.

In his new year policy briefing to President Chon Tu-hwan, Kum said his ministry will expand its support for export loans, insurance and deferred payment exports, and will streamline export procedures and incidental costs, in order to achieve its goal of recording a 900 million U.S. dollar trade surplus this year.

Kum said his ministry will also rearrange Korea's industrial structure to sharpen the nation's international competitive edge by intensively promoting the parts manufacturing industries and small- and medium-sized businesses.

In addition, Kum continued, the Trade and Industry Ministry will provide more than 1 trillion won (1.12 billion U.S. dollars; one U.S. dollar is worth about 890 won) in financial support for investments in export facilities.

The ministry will also increase the number of export businesses from the 6,700 last year to 7,500 this year, in order to expand Korea's export supply capacity, according to Kum.

In 1985, Korea recorded a 883 million-dollar trade deficit; its exports totaled 30.249 billion dollars and its imports amounted to 31.132 dollars.

In the meantime, Kum said, his ministry will host the world trade ministers conference here in the first half of 1986. More than 20 developed and developing countries are expected to attend the conference.

The ministry will also actively participate in the new round of global trade talks and will strengthen economic cooperation on the parliamentary level by setting up a trade subcommittee in the National Assembly, Kum said.

To sharpen the competitiveness of all industrial sectors, Kum said, the ministry has advised Korea's 250 machinery manufacturing companies to set up

development plans for the domestic production of items whose imports total to more than 1 million dollars per year.

The auto industry, which shipped its first exports to the United States this year, will raise its finished car production capacity to 1 million units, he said. It will also independently develop fuel-efficient and low-pollution engines and will set up a vehicle test center, Kum said.

In the electronics industry, Kum said he will emphasize the development of advanced technology and the promotion of domestic demand.

Kum said that the government and private businesses will jointly develop mega-bit-level random access memory chips. To promote the domestic consumption of electronic products, the government will lower excise taxes, he added.

The ministry's 1986 priority policy is the promotion of small- and medium-sized industries, Kum said, and it will drastically reduce the red tape involved in opening a new business, will provide 50 billion won in financial support to those who open new small businesses and will set up five investment companies to the new small business owners.

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CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/ECONOMY

ELEVEN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES PLANNED FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

SK040035 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] Construction Minister Yi Kyu-hyo said yesterday that his ministry will build 11 industrial complexes in southern Kyonggi-do in 11 years to induce small and medium-sized industrial businesses to move from metropolitan areas to the area. The plan is to be pushed forward beginning in March.

In a new year briefing to President Chon Tu-hwan, Minister Yi said that the measure is aimed to disperse population and resources, which are excessively concentrated in Seoul and its vicinities.

According to the minister, the projected complexes will be five big ones with a space of 1.65 million square meters each and six with a space of 660,000 square meters. They will be located in the Songtan, Pyongtaek, Ansong, Palan, Anjung and Hwaseong areas, all 40 to 70 kilometers south of Seoul.

For the purpose, a total of 14.8 square kilometers in lots will be developed in the areas--7.9 square kilometers by 1991 and the remaining 6.9 square kilometers by 1996, he said.

The minister said that the state-run Industrial Sites and Water Resources Development Corp. will initiate the development of land to forestall possible land speculation. End users will be gathered publicly to introduce the private funds to the land development.

Another 2.6-square-kilometer-wide industrial complex will be formed in the southern Kyonggi areas through private investments, where various kinds of businesses appropriate for the provincial characteristics will be located, according to him.

Minister Yi reported that the ministry is working on a fund for balanced development, which will be provided to provincial cities or development-lagged areas.

For efficient supply of the fund, the relevant tax will be imposed on newly-constructed mammoth buildings in Seoul and a portion of residential taxes will be diverted to the fund. It will also be funded from national coffers and with foreign loans, he said.

In a long-range physical development, the minister classified the country into three categories.

The "central" region including Taejon, Chongju, Kunsan, Chonju and Iri will function as a center for administration, research and banking activities and the "Kyongsang" provincial areas will work for international trade and industrial activities. The "Cholla" provincial region will function as an inland industrial base for provincial economy, Minister Yi briefed.

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S.KOREA/ECONOMY

'EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION CENTER' TO BE ESTABLISHED

SK280057 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] The government will establish an "employment information center" this year which will find jobs for university graduates, Deputy Premier-Economic Planning Minister Kim Man-che said yesterday.

In the year's first meeting for policy coordination between the administration and the ruling Democratic Justice Party, Kim also said that the government will increase its support of small and medium enterprises drastically to expand the changes for employment of the mobless.

The government will also provide the jobless with vocational training as recommended by the DJP, he said.

During the meeting, the government and the DJP decided to work out comprehensive programs to help invigorate the economy in agricultural and fishing villages by the end of next month, party spokesman Rep. Sim Myong-po said.

The meeting was attended by leading party officiers, including chairman Rep. No Tae-u, and major Cabinet members, including Prime Minister No Sin-yong.

Prime Minister No told the party leaders that the government would make its utmost effort to materialize the "grand politics" suggested by President Chon Tu-hwan in his new year policy statement and by DJP chairman No in his new year press conference.

No told Cabinet members that the administration and the party are required to work in concert to achieve the nation's "great tasks" of realizing a peaceful transfer of government, and staging the '86 Asiad and '88 Olympics successfully.

In particular, No said that the general session of the Association of National Olympic Committees to be held in Seoul in April will be a good occasion to ensure the successful holding of the two international sports events.

He asked the government to support fully the ANOC meeting, which will provide a chance for Korea to introduce its tradition and culture to some 800 sports leaders from 161 nations.

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CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/SOCIAL CONDITIONS

POLICE LAUNCH 2-WEEK CRACKDOWN ON VIOLENT CRIMES

SK290125 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 29 Jan 86 p 8

[Text] The Seoul Metropolitan Police launched a two-week crackdown on violent crimes yesterday.

Armed robberies, homicides and assaults will bear the brunt of the latest police campaign against felons, said a spokesman for the Seoul Metropolitan Police. The anticrime drive will continue through Feb. 11, two days after the lunar New Year's Day.

Policemen have been told to carry loaded rifles and gas guns without fail when they set out to catch perpetrators of violent crimes, the spokesman said.

In addition to detectives, he said, other policemen, including those in charge of intelligence-gathering and counterspying activities will join the anti-crime campaign.

Most police cars in the metropolitan area will be mobilized to net felons, he said.

He said there are about 1,000 crimeprone areas in the capital city in which more than 20 percent of the nation's population resides. Police will launch ambush or multiply their tours in and around those areas.

Twenty-four police stations in the city will be divided into five groups to boost interstation cooperation in cracking down on felons, according to the spokesman.

He conceded that violent crimes increased sharply last year as police have concentrated efforts on combating street demonstrations and on protecting foreign participants in major international meetings held in the capital city.

Figures available at the metropolitan police show that violent crimes, including homicides, armed robberies and rapes, climbed 16.7 percent in 1985 over the previous year. Assaults also increased 10.9 percent during the same period.

To effectively combat violent crimes, the National Police Headquarters has recently announced plans to form 12 highpowered anticrime task forces, whose members will include martial arts experts, in six big cities.

The prosecution, for its part, has been seeking the maximum penalty of death against the so-called "family-destroying crimes" that include rapes committed in presence of family members.

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S.KOREA/MEDIA AND THE ARTS

BRIEFS

NEWSPAPER, PRESS AGENCY HEADS--Two former culture-information ministers were named presidents of major press organizations yesterday. Yi Chin-hui, MCUI minister from May 1982 to February 1985, was elected president of the state-run daily SEOUL SHINMUN in a special shareholders' meeting. Yi Kwang-pyo, Yi Chin-hui's predecessor, became president of the YONHAP NEWS AGENCY, the sole news service company established in joint investments by media organizations. Both started their careers as newspaper reporters--Yi Chin-hui with the TONG-A ILBO and Yi Kwang-pyo with the HANKOOK ILBO. Most recently, Yi Chin-hui was chairman of the Korea Anti-Communist League and the other Yi president of the Korea Press Center. Former SEOUL SHINMUN president Yi Wu-se has been designated to succeed Yi Kwang-pyo as head of the press center.

[Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Feb 86 SK] /6662

DPA CHAIRMAN--Seoul, Jan. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)--Walter Richtberg, chairman of the executive board of the DEUTSCHE PRESSE AGENTUR (DPA), arrived here Thursday evening to discuss the establishment of a news exchange agreement with YONHAP NEWS AGENCY. On Friday morning, Richtberg met with Korean Unification Minister Pak Tong-chin to exchange views on the problems of divided countries. Chong Chong-sik, president of YONHAP NEWS AGENCY, was present during their meeting. During his stay here, Richtberg will also meet with Prime Minister No Sing-yong, Foreign Minister Yi Won-kyong and Culture-Information Minister Yi Won-hong. He is scheduled to return to Germany on Feb. 2. (Text) [Seoul YONHAP in English 0219 GMT 31 Jan 86 SK] /6662

CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BRIEFS

AMCHAM URGES SOFTWARE COPYRIGHT PROTECTION--The American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) in Korea has published a paper stating its position on the need for computer software copyright protection in this nation. According to AMCHAM yesterday, copyright protection for foreign and domestic software is urgently needed to allow the domestic software industry to grow and to permit Korea to move forward to reach its economic goals. Without such protection, AMCHAM believes, Korea risks being left behind by other countries in both computer use and in the domestic production and export of software. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Science and Technology plans to enact a software protection law this year in order to promote fair development of domestic software market. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Feb 86 p 8 SK] /6662

S&T ANNUAL REPORT--Seoul, Jan. 31 (OANA-YONHAP)--The South Korean Government will direct state-finance research institutes to develop technologies for Korea's small- and medium-sized businesses and will give them technological support, Science and Technology Minister Chon Hak-che said Friday. In an annual report to President Chon Tu-hwan at the presidential residence, Chongwadae, Chon said that the government will soon set up a committee to implement a long-term plan for scientific and technological developments into the 21st century. It will also set up a special 56 million-U.S. dollar research fund for seven major technological development projects, including the development of energy technology, he reported. To attain self-reliance in the field of atomic energy technology, Chon said, the government will invest another 56 million dollars in the construction of a multi-purpose nuclear reactor, without foreign technical assistance before 1990. The government plans to build a nuclear fuel plant to meet all of Korea's nuclear fuel needs by 1989, Chon said. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 31 Jan 86 SK] /6662

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION--Seoul, Jan. 25 (OANA-YONHAP)--The South Korean Government is considering plans to establish a "university technology innovation center," in order to strengthen cooperation between industries and academic circles in research and development, a government source said Saturday. The center would greatly enhance Korea's research and development activities by maximizing the use of Korea's limited research manpower, resources and facilities, the source added. The purpose of the center is to eliminate the shortage of research personnel in Korean industries by giving university or

college researchers more access to companies' R and D activities, the source said. Korea's universities and colleges employ 3,580 doctors of science or engineering, while nine government-financed institutes, including the Korea Advanced Institute for Science and Technology, have 520 doctorate holders, according to recent government statistics. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0230 GMT 25 Jan 86 SK] /6662

CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

COUNTRY TO REJECT UNITED AIRLINES' REQUEST FOR EARLIER SERVICE

SK040057 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Feb 86 p 8

[Text] The government was warned to reject a request of United Airlines to begin regular service to Seoul on Feb. 11, some 20 days earlier than the initial schedule it had set in the previous application.

A senior government official said yesterday, "It is our position that United Airlines should not be allowed to make an inaugural flight to Seoul earlier than the original schedule."

UA yesterday requested that the Transportation Ministry permit its debut in the Korean aviation arena on Feb. 11, in a revision to its Dec. 4 application. Next week, the American airline is scheduled to begin service to Tokyo.

It had earlier called for permission for service to Seoul starting March 4.

"The U.S. airline moved to push the date up to within less than a month. But current local regulations stipulate that an airline must file an application at least three months prior to its proposed inaugural flight," the official said, stressing the observance of the pertinent decrees.

The position appears to have resulted from displeasure over the U.S. reluctance to hold "productive" aviation talks later this month for the discussion of the pending 1980 memorandum of understanding, as proposed by Koreans.

He declined, however, to make a definite commitment concerning UA's initial request for permission for an inaugural flight on March 4. The U.S. carrier purchased the flight rights on Asian-Pacific routes from Pan American World Airways for \$759 million in May of last year.

UA, one of the largest U.S. airlines, covering the whole United States, is expected to trigger hectic competition among carriers flying on Asian-Pacific routes. Northwest Orient also recently took over a U.S. domestic carrier, Republic, enhancing its service in America.

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CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

ABDUCTION OF KOREAN DIPLOMAT IN BEIRUT

Termed 'Intentional, Premeditated Crime'

SK010332 Seoul YONHAP in English 0310 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (OANA-YONHAP)--The South Korean Embassy in Beirut has been making contacts with various leaders of Lebanese religious factions in an effort to locate the Korean diplomat who was kidnapped by five gunmen Friday in West Beirut, a Korean Foreign Ministry official said Saturday, quoting Korea's ambassador to Lebanon, Kim Hyon-chin.

In a five-minute telephone report to the ministry on Friday afternoon, Kim said he believes the abduction was an "international and premeditated crime," according to the official.

To Chae-song, 44, a second secretary and consul at the Korean Embassy in Beirut, was abducted by masked gunmen at the entrance of the embassy as he and Kim Kyu-yong, an embassy clerk, drove to work through the Moslem West Beirut on Friday morning. Kim was not harmed in the incident.

Earlier Saturday, the ambassador sent a report to the ministry describing the kidnapping.

According to the report, gunmen wearing black masks and armed with machine guns and pistols intercepted To's car some 25 meters from the embassy while Kim was driving to work on Friday morning.

Pointing their guns at To and Kim, the kidnappers forced the diplomat out of the car and bundled him into the trunk of their Mercedes-Benz near the embassy, the report said.

Before driving to an unidentified place, the kidnappers took the keys from To's car and fired several shots at the right, front wheel of the car, it added.

It was not known why Kim was allowed to go free, according to the report.

To and Kim live in the same apartment and drive to the embassy together every morning, according to the report.

To was the first Korean diplomat to be kidnapped abroad.

The Korean Embassy in Beirut is located in the seafront hamlet Al-Baida District, which is relatively safe from the fighting of the Lebanese civil war.

No Progress in Finding Abductors

SK010301 Seoul YONHAP in English 0250 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (OANA-YONHAP)--The South Korean Foreign Ministry set up a task force Friday to cope with the kidnapping of a Korean diplomat in Lebanon.

The diplomat, identified as To Chae-song, 43, a second secretary at the Korean Embassy in Beirut, was abducted by four armed men near the embassy building on his way to work around 8:10 a.m. local time Friday.

Kim Kyu-yong, a clerk at the embassy, was with To at the time of the kidnapping, but he was allowed to go free.

A ministry official said that South Korea's ambassador to Lebanon, Kim Hyon-chin, has been making contacts with religious leaders there, in an effort to find out whether or not a religious faction was involved in the incident. He has so far made no progress, however.

The official quoted Ambassador Kim as saying that the abduction was apparently premeditated, considering the fact that the kidnappers used a passenger car and Soviet-made AK47 machine guns.

Meanwhile, the parents and relatives of the Korean diplomat here expressed astonishment at the abduction. His father said, "I was concerned about my son's safety because Lebanon is a troubled country, but I never dreamed of such a disaster before."

A career diplomat with 13 years of experience, To was assigned to Beirut last July, after serving as a second secretary at the Korean Embassy in Jamaica and a vice consul at the Korean Consultate in Honolulu.

Missions Instructed for Possible Terrorism

SK010005 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] The Foreign Ministry, alarmed by the kidnapping of To Chae-song, second secretary and consul at the Korean Embassy in Beirut, instructed all Korean missions abroad yesterday to be prepared for possible terrorist attacks.

The ministry confirmed the unprecedented kidnapping of a Korean diplomat abroad yesterday afternoon about an hour after the incident took place.

The ministry immediately formed a task force, which will be at work around the clock.

Minister Yi Won-kyong instructed Ambassador Kim Hyon-chin to try to get the kidnapped diplomat's early and safe return through contacts with Lebanese Government officials and leaders of religious factions.

Reports from the Beirut Embassy said Consul Kim Kyu-yong, who was with To Chae-song in the embassy car, was unharmed. He reported the incident to the ambassador.

The ambassador sought help from the police and the Lebanese Foreign Ministry in the search for the kidnapped diplomat. By late yesterday, there was no information about the kidnappers, who made no contact with the embassy or the Lebanese authorities.

The ministry said it was the first time that a Korean diplomat was kidnapped from his place of assignment since the establishment of the government in 1948.

To was assigned to Beirut on July 9, 1985 after serving as a second secretary at the Korean Embassy in Jamaica.

A graduate of the College of Law, Seoul National University, he joined the foreign service in February, 1973. He once served as a vice consul at the Korean Consultate General in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Formal relations between Korea and Lebanon opened on Oct. 1, 1969 when the two nations agreed on the establishment of a Korean trade mission in Beirut.

Full diplomatic relationship was established on Feb. 12, 1981. North Korea also opened its embassy in Beirut on the same day.

KOREAN TIMES' Comment

SK020132 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Feb 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Abduction of ROK Diplomat"]

[Text] It is a shocking and alarming development that a Korean diplomat was kidnapped in the strife-ridden Lebanese capital of Beirut by a group of five heavily-armed gunmen Friday on his way to the Korean Embassy, where he is assigned.

The career foreign service officer, To Chae-song, has thus become the first Asian diplomat to be seized there, though about two scores of foreigners, mostly from Western countries and more recently from the Soviet Union, have been abducted since 1984 and a third of them are still missing.

In fact, he is the first Korean diplomat stationed abroad who has ever faced the ordeal of kidnapping.

Upon learning of the incident, we cannot but be puzzled as to why a Korean diplomat had to become the prey of abduction, even while acknowledging the all-too-precarious situation in Lebanon, which has suffered for years all sorts of consequences and side-effects of prolonged communal strife, as well as international clashes among regional powers.

Off hand, one may question whether he was merely a random victim of kidnapping or a deliberate target of political terrorism waged by certain quarters.

At this writing, these and other related questions are virtually left unanswered, since little indications, let alone credible evidence, were available with regard to reasons for the kidnapping, though there were initial reports that the Lebanese police were looking into the possibility of North Korean involvement in the incident.

As uttered by a Korean Embassy source there, who reportedly stressed that the embassy staff have shunned local politics and thus have no political enemy, the kidnapping case was indeed "very strange." The Republic of Korea has consistently made prudent efforts to stay away from the intricate developments in Lebanon--for one thing, in 1982, it turned down a repeated request for joining the multinational peace-keeping force, then in the offing.

Whatever the reasons and motivation may be for the abduction, the party seizing the innocent Korean diplomat is called on to free him immediately for the sake of humanitarianism and international justice.

For his release, the Lebanese Government is also urged to make utmost efforts, while all Lebanese sectarian groups and other parties which may have influence over the matter are asked to render their assistance.

At the same time, the Korean Government should step up all-out endeavors for his early release, keeping in close contact with the Beirut authorities and other potentially-helpful foreign governments and establishments.

Further Efforts, Contacts

SK020026 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross and several Arab countries yesterday informed the Korean Government that they will actively cooperate in efforts to obtain the release of the kidnapped diplomat, To Chae-song.

A Ministry of Foreign Affairs official said, "The Geneva-based committee and several Arab countries expressed their intent to render assistance for the location and early release of To."

They expressed such intent in replying to the Korean Government's request for cooperation, said the official.

He said his ministry asked the international body for help with the release, from a humanitarian viewpoint, through the Korean Embassy in Geneva.

He said the ministry requested cooperation from what he called "influential Arab countries" to obtain the immediate release of To Chae-song. He did not elaborate on the influential Arab nations.

It also asked the United States, France and some other allies for diplomatic assistance.

The official quoted Korean Ambassador to Beirut Kim Hyon-chin as reporting to the ministry that the abduction appeared to be a "premeditated act."

The ambassador was further quoted as saying that he was contacting various leaders of Lebanese religious factions in an effort to locate To.

Amb. Kim also met with Lebanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rashid Karami and asked for assistance.

Meanwhile, the ministry switched chief of a task team in charge of the kidnapping case from director general for Middle East affairs to the first assistant minister in view of the significance of the case.

In a related move, the ministry instructed all the Korean embassies abroad to make close cooperation with the governments of host countries for immediate settlement of the abduction.

The ministry also directed the Korean embassies whose officials are considered vulnerable to the kidnapping to take thorough security measures for the safety of embassy personnel.

According to the ministry, there are 15 foreigners held hostage in Lebanon, excluding To. They are six Americans, four French, three Spaniards and one each from Britain and Italy.

Motive for Kidnapping Unknown

SK031009 Seoul YONHAP in English 0747 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)--The South Korean Government is working on safety measures for Korean diplomats stationed abroad, in an effort to prevent the recurrence of incidents similar to the kidnapping in Beirut last Friday of a Korean diplomat, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

The Foreign Ministry, which expects the kidnapping case to be protracted, formed a task force to cope with the kidnapping of To Chae-song, second secretary at the Korean Embassy in Beirut.

To, 43, was ambushed by unidentified gunmen, who forced him into the trunk of a getaway car, while he was driving to work in Moslem West Beirut.

Although some organizations in Beirut have claimed responsibility for the kidnapping, no clues to the whereabouts of the abducted secretary and no motive for the kidnapping have yet been found, the official said.

Letter of Appeal

SK040050 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] Beirut--Korean Ambassador to Lebanon Kim Hyon-chin is preparing a letter of appeal to seek an early rescue of a Korean diplomat To Chae-sung, who was abducted here last week.

The petition will be made in the name of the Korean Embassy and To's family and is likely to be released to the press shortly.

Along with the release of the petition letter, Amb. Kim will disclose the Korean Government's stance in connection with the kidnapping incident.

Amb. Kim's intention to do so was revealed soon after the "Fighting Revolutionary Cells" claimed the responsibility for the abduction of the Korean diplomat in a typed statement along with polaroid photograph of To.

Grudge Not Factor in Kidnapping

NC041115 Paris AFP in English 1032 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Beirut, Feb 4 (AFP)--South Korean Embassy officials in Beirut today ruled out the possibility that Second Secretary To Chae-Sung might have been kidnapped by people holding a personal grudge against him.

Mr To, 43, was kidnapped on Friday near the South Korean Embassy by four armed men. Embassy officials said today he had been with Attaché Kim Kyu-yong [title as received], whom the kidnappers let free. Reports until now had named the other diplomat as First Secretary Kim Won-Tchol. [sentence as received]

An unknown organisation, the Fighting Revolutionary Cells, yesterday threatened to kill Mr To but said it would state its demands "later."

There has been no further contact since the message, sent to AFP with a Polaroid photo of the kidnapped diplomat.

Embassy officials here ruled out the possibility that Mr To might have had a personal difference with any Lebanese faction or individual since his arrival in Beirut in September.

This is one of the many reasons why thousands of Lebanese and scores of foreigners have been kidnapped in Lebanon in recent years.

Emergency Meeting Held

SK050025 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 5 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] The government is endeavoring to determine the characters and background forces of the "Fighting Revolutionary Cells" a group which claimed responsibility Monday for the kidnapping of diplomat To Chae-sung.

It is also examining various measures to cope with the development of situations.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Yi Won-kyong yesterday presided over an emergency meeting to review the developments up to now and work out steps to obtain the early release of To.

Emerging from the meeting, an official said, "We are trying our best to get the kidnapped diplomat released as early as possible. We have examined possibilities from various angles."

He said, however, that he cannot be sure about whether the "Revolutionary Cells" are the kidnappers as it claimed.

Meanwhile, a source said the government instructed Korean embassies in relevant countries to look into the true nature of the group.

Investigation is also under way into possible relationship between the "Revolutionary Cells" and a far leftist group in Belgium which has the identical name.

The "Revolutionary Cells," believed to be a Moslem group, sent a photo of the kidnapped diplomat as evidence, the source said its claim appeared to be more authentic than claims by other groups.

When the group is proved to be a kidnapper and its demand for the release is presented, channels for negotiations would be established, he expected.

He said the government is studying the precedents of other countries in handling similar incidents.

/6662
CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

RIGHTS GROUP SEEKS JAPAN'S HELP ON SAKHALIN KOREANS

SK040323 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)--The International Human Rights League of Korea has urged the Foreign Ministry to take diplomatic steps to encourage the Japanese Government to help repatriate Koreans stranded on the Soviet island of Sakhalin, a league official said Tuesday.

The league expressed the hope that Japan will help return Koreans stranded for more than 40 years on the island through active negotiations with the Soviet Union, with which South Korea has no diplomatic relations.

Almost 7,000 Koreans living on the island, which has been occupied by the Soviet Union since the end of World War II, are descendants of Koreans brought there by Japan for forced labor during World War II. Korea was under Japanese colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

The Soviet Union announced last month in a foreign ministers meeting with Japan that it may allow the departure of the Koreans from Sakhalin Island, applying the same procedures required of Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union.

According to emigration procedures for Jews living in the Soviet Union, potential emigrants must obtain requests for departure from relatives, as well as references, identification papers, a statement of intent to leave and an application for departure.

The Korean League has appealed to the Korean Government to investigate the condition of Sakhalin Koreans who wish to return to their homeland and to investigate their references in South Korea as soon as possible.

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S.KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEFS DJP OFFICIALS ON 86 DIPLOMACY

SK010015 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] The Foreign Ministry plans to establish a "diplomacy consultative council" made up of experts from all walks of life, Foreign Minister Yi Won-kyong said yesterday.

He said that the projected council will study and discuss major diplomatic problems, and will advise the government about the issues.

Yi was briefing lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Justice Party assigned to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly on the office's policy programs of this year.

He also said that his ministry will concentrate on strengthening trade diplomacy to find new markets in China and East European countries.

In the policy coordination meeting, the minister told the DJP lawmakers that efforts will be made to increase emigration to the United States, Canada, Africa and Latin American nations throughout the year.

Rep. Kim Hak-chun recommended that the ministry publish something like "diplomatic bulletins" which developed countries issue to officially express their diplomatic policies.

Minister Yi said that he would have the Institute for Foreign Affairs and National Security study the recommendation.

Rep. Choe Pyong-yul urged the ministry to simplify the reception procedures for foreign guests visiting the country so as not to cause inconvenience to citizens.

Minister Yi said that his ministry is consulting with the Ministry of Government Administration on a plan to have foreign guests coming by special flights use airports other than Kimpo International Airport.

Rep. Pong Tu-wan, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, called upon the ministry to launch "active diplomacy" to help settle peace on the Korean peninsula.

He said that now is the time when the government should draw up a blueprint of far-sighted diplomacy, breaking from the past practice of resorting to shortlived policies designed to solve newly emerging problems.

/6662
CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

PRIME MINISTER NO'S DIPLOMATIC TOUR

Upcoming Trip

SK010028 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Feb 86 p 4

[Editorial: "No's Diplomatic Swing"]

[Text] Prime Minister No Sin-yong is scheduled to embark on a tour of India, Australian, New Zealand and Fiji in early March. The diplomatic swing by the chief cabinet officer is considered to be a replication of a similar trip by President Chon Tu-hwan suspended as a result of the Rangoon bombing incident in 1983.

No's visit to India will be the first by our top-ranking official to that leading country of South Asia. Cementing closer ties with the potential giant in the Indian subcontinent is important in view of New Delhi's high statute in the nonaligned bloc and its sensitive relations with Pyongyang.

North Koreans have paid frequent visits to India in an effort to court increased friendship and win support for their advance into West Asia and the Middle East. Our government stands in need of curbing the Communist diplomatic offensive and should further strengthen a solid partnership with India.

Seoul's bonds of cooperation with the two leading powers in Oceania, Australia and New Zealand, have continued to grow in recent years with a frequent exchange of visits by government leaders. The addition of Fiji to No's itinerary this time reflects our rising stake in relations with emerging countries in the region.

President Chon has reiterated his commitment to the concept of the Pacific Basin community of nations devoted to more effective and dynamic regional collaboration for social, economic and cultural development.

Toward that end, expansion of our joint exploration of natural resources and trade with nations in the area is vital before broader cooperation and integration in other spheres can be sought. In this endeavor, the role of newly independent small nations can never be underestimated.

No's journey through these four countries comes at a time when Seoul is taking on a larger share in the affairs of Asia and the Pacific in transition.

Visit to India, Oceanic Countries

SK310606 Seoul YONHAP in English 0359 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 31 (OANA-YONHAP)--South Korean Prime Minister No Sin-yong will leave here March 2 for a two-week trip to India, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, at the invitation of the prime ministers of those countries, a spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office announced Friday.

During the four-nation tour, No will meet with prime ministers Rajiv Gandhi of India, Robert James Lee Hawke of Australia, David Russell Lange of New Zealand and Sir Ratu Kamisese K.T. Mara of Fiji. They are expected to discuss matters of mutual concern, including bilateral relations and international developments.

The Korean prime minister is also scheduled to meet with Zail Singh, president of India, and with governors-general Ninian Stephen of Australia, Paul Reeves of New Zealand, and Sir Ratu Penaia K. Ganilau of Fiji, as well as other government and parliamentary leaders.

No is scheduled to deliver a speech on economic relations between South Korea and India at a luncheon to be hosted by the president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

His visit to India, the first made in an official capacity by a Korean prime minister, will pave the way for the deepening of friendly and cooperative relations with India, the spokesman said. No's trips to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji will further consolidate Korea's existing bonds with those countries and will strengthen regional cooperation among the Pacific Basin countries, he added.

The Korean prime minister is scheduled to visit India from March 3-5, Australia from March 6-10, New Zealand from March 10-12 and Fiji from March 12-14. He will return home on March 16.

No will be accompanied by Yi Sang-ok, vice foreign minister, and Ha Sun-pong, secretary-general to the prime minister.

/6662
CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

BRIEFS

CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION--Seoul, Jan. 27 (OANA-YONHAP)--Chung In-yong, South Korean finance minister, Monday urged the heads of 14 Korean customs houses to streamline their regulations in order to cope effectively with the increasing volume of commodity trade. The finance minister also directed them to simplify entry procedures for athletes and tourists who plan to come here for the 1986 Asian Games, in order to give them a good impression of Korea. Chung made the remarks in a meeting with the heads of 14 customs houses here on Monday morning. He encouraged them to try to establish a tariff policy and system that comply with Korea's open-door economic policy. Chung called on them to take detailed measures to prevent smuggling, which he said could damage Korea's sound consumer economy. Kim Uk-tae, administrator of the Office of Customs Administration, also attended the meeting. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 27 Jan 86 SK] /6662

CONDOLENCES ON EXPLOSION OF 'CHALLENGER'--Seoul, Jan. 29 (OANA-YONHAP)--South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan Wednesday sent a cable to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, conveying his condolences for the tragic explosion of the spacecraft Challenger, which claimed the lives of seven U.S. astronauts. In the cable, Chon said he was shocked and saddened at the tragic disaster of the space shuttle Challenger. "I can find no proper word to express our sympathy and condolences toward the bereaved families," Chon said. "We shall all remember their invariable contributions to the space exploration made through their noble sacrifices." "The people of the Republic of Korea join with me in mourning over your nation's great loss," he added. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0126 GMT 29 Jan 86 SK] /6662

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE--Seoul, Jan. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)--South Korean business circles plan to hold 18 private-level international economic conferences both at home and abroad this year to improve capital and technological cooperation with foreign countries. They will send trade missions to Europe, Latin America and Asia. The mission to Europe, comprising 20 businessmen, will try to attract foreign investors to Korea and to diversify Korea's sources of the importation of high technologies, the Federation of Korean Industries reported Thursday. It will also explore possibilities for setting up joint ventures and technological partnerships with European firms and for establishing partnerships with European firms in third countries. The largest international economic conference to be held in Korea this year will be the annual general meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC), scheduled to open in May. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 30 Jan 86 SK] /6662

ROK, JAPAN SYMPOSIUM ON WORLD AFFAIRS--Seoul, Jan. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)--The Korean Foreign Ministry announced Thursday that it will participate with a Japanese institute in an annual symposium on international affairs next month. Through the symposium, the ministry hopes to promote research and development of Korea's foreign policy, and to analyze international developments, the ministry reported. Under the plan, the ministry Foreign Affairs and National Security Institute and the Japanese Institute of International Affairs will hold their first symposium from Feb. 3-5 on Tokyo. The two sides are expected to discuss relations between Seoul and Pyongyang, the Sino-Soviet question and recent developments on the Korean peninsula. O Chae-hui, director of the Korean institute, will lead a 12-member Korean delegation, and Kinya Nizeki, director of the Japanese institute, will head a 15-member delegation. The Korean institute has taken part in four Korean-U.S. conferences on the security situation in Northeast Asia. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0326 GMT 30 Jan 86 SK] /6662

AMBASSADORS TO BAHAMAS, YAR--Seoul, Jan. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)--The South Korean Government Thursday appointed Kim Kyong-won, Korean ambassador to the United States, to serve concurrently as ambassador to the Bahamas, the Foreign Affairs Ministry announced. Choe Ho-chung, ambassador to Saudi Arabia, was assigned to serve concurrently as ambassador to North Yemen (Yemen Arab Republic), the ministry said. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0801 GMT 30 Jan 86 SK] /6662

OUTGOING PERUVIAN ENVOY--President Chon Tu-hwan presented Jorge Chavez Soto, outgoing Peruvian ambassador to Korea, with the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit, Kwanghwa Medal, at Chongwadae yesterday. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 31 Jan 86 p 1 SK] /6662

LANGUAGE TRAINING--Seoul, Jan. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)--The South Korean Foreign Ministry will step up its foreign-language training program for newly-recruited diplomats this year, a ministry official said Thursday. It plans to send 15 or 16 of the new Foreign Service officials recruited annually to Britain or the United States and to send four or five officials to other countries, under the training program, the official said. The program will require the officials to train at universities or language institutes in their host countries for two years. The growing need for diplomats to master the languages of their host countries prompted the ministry to work out the plan, the official added. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0359 GMT 30 Jan 86 SK] /6662

AMBASSADOR TO BURKINA FASO--Seoul, Feb. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)--The South Korean Government Monday appointed Choe Kun-pae, coordinator at the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Bureau, as the ambassador to Burkina Faso in Africa, the Foreign Ministry said. Choe replaces Ho Sung who has been named the chief of the Middle Eastern Affairs Bureau at the ministry. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0943 GMT 3 Feb 86 SK] /6662

ASIAN-AFRICAN CONSULTATIVE MEETING--Seoul, Feb. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)--Pak Su-kil, Korean ambassador to Morocco, will lead a five-member Korean delegation to the 25th general assembly meeting of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC), which opened Monday in Arusha, Tanzania, the Foreign Affairs Ministry said Monday. In the 8-day meeting, the participants are expected to discuss law of the sea, sovereign immunity, trade law and indebtedness of developing countries. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0100 GMT 3 Jan 86 SK] /6662
CSO: 4100/077

S.KOREA/FOREIGN TRADE

FKI REPORT ANALYZES ROK'S 1984 EXPORTS TO U.S., OTHERS

SK310229 Seoul YONHAP in English 0118 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 31 (OANA-YONHAP)--South Korea's export drive last year was led by footwear, petrochemicals, automobiles and auto parts, the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) reported Friday.

Exports of textiles, steel and electronics fell below the 1984 level, however.

While exports to Japan and Europe, which had grown at a favorable pace until 1984, recorded a negative growth rate last year, the growth rate of exports to the United States, Korea's largest trading partner, declined significantly.

The exportation of textiles, which has traditionally been Korea's largest export item, fell by 1.0 percent last year, from 7,079 million U.S. dollars in 1984 to 7,006 million dollars. In contrast, textile exports from 1983 to 1984 grew by 17 percent.

Exports of steel products last year totaled 2.6 billion dollars, down 2.8 percent; those of electronics amounted to nearly 2 billion dollars, down 7.6 percent; and those of electric products totaled 609 million dollars, down 2.2 percent, according to the federation report.

The exportation of automobiles and auto components and parts increased by 150.7 percent, to 790 million dollars; those of footwear rose by 12.4 percent, to 1.6 billion dollars.

Those of electronic products for industrial use jumped by 47.8 percent; those of artifacts shot up by 46.2 percent and those of petrochemicals grew by 19.1 percent.

Exports to Japan last year fell by 1.3 percent, from 4.6 billion dollars in 1984 to 4.5 billion dollars, compared with a 37.1 percent rise from 1983 to 1984. Korea's exports to Europe also declined by 6.4 percent.

Due to sluggish business conditions and strengthened import regulations implemented by the U.S. Government, Korea's exports to the United States last

year increased by only 2.5 percent, to 10.7 billion dollars, compared with an impressive growth rate of 28.9 percent from 1983 to 1984.

Exports to Africa totaled 665 million dollars, up 47.8 percent, and those to Latin America and the Middle East increased by 2.5 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively, the FKI reported.

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S.KOREA/FOREIGN TRADE

ALBUM INDUSTRY APPEAL REJECTED BY U.S. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

SK290250 Seoul YONHAP in English 0157 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (OANA-YONHAP)--The U.S. Commerce Department Tuesday turned down an appeal by the South Korean photo album industry that it reconsider an anti-dumping ruling against Korean-made albums earlier than scheduled, the Korean Embassy in Washington reported.

The reasons behind the decision were not given, but the Commerce Department said it was made in accordance with pertinent laws, according to the embassy report.

In its final ruling last October, the Commerce Department imposed a 64.8 percent anti-dumping surcharge on South Korean photo album exports.

The ruling brought an immediate halt to Korea's exportation of albums to the United States, dealing a devastating blow to Korea's small photo album makers. The U.S. market accounted for half of their exports.

In 1984, Korean album makers exported about 61 million U.S. dollars worth of products.

On Jan. 15, the Korean firms filed a complaint with the U.S. Court of International Trade (CIT), asserting that the Commerce Department had made an "unfair ruling."

There is no possibility that the Commerce Departments' decision will be reversed by the CIT, however, an industry source said.

To minimize the damage caused by the ruling, the Korean album manufacturers plan to diversify their overseas markets, the source added.

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S.KOREA/FOREIGN TRADE

U.S. TO SCRAP BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT WITH ROK, OTHERS

SK290255 Seoul YONHAP in English 0212 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (OANA-YONHAP)--The U.S. Administration is working on measures to strongly regulate textile imports in the wake of President Ronald Reagan's veto last month of the Thurmond bill, a business source here said Wednesday.

It has set up a special task force in charge of formulating new textile import regulations. The task force, which comprises officials from the state, finance, commerce and labor departments, as well as the trade representative office, will approve restrictive regulations before the end of February, the source said, quoting a report from the Korean Federation of Textile Industries.

The U.S. Government is working on plans to scrap bilateral textile agreements with Korea, Taiwan and other major textile exporting countries six months before their expiration date--Dec. 31, 1986. In their place, Washington would like to establish new agreements containing many new clauses, which would more strictly limit textile imports, as soon as possible.

The new regulations would bring about a sweeping reduction in textile export quotas, expand the list of textile products subject to the quota system and encourage exports from countries other than Korea and Taiwan.

The U.S. Government will also encourage European countries to take similar steps within the framework of the multi-fiber arrangement, an 18-nation world textile agreement that has effectively restricted imports from low-cost developing countries, the source quoted the report as saying.

The federation report was prepared by a textile trade mission that recently visited the United States.

To cope with the recent U.S. protectionism, the Korean textile industry should import new textile technologies from the United States, improve cooperation with U.S. textile manufacturers and give greater publicity to Korea's efforts to open its market as widely as possible and prevent unfair trade practices, the report recommended.

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CSO: 4100/077

S. KOREA/FOREIGN TRADE

TRADE WITH ARABS REVIEWED

Doha DIYARUNA WA AL-'ALAM in Arabic Dec 85 pp 25-27

[Interview with Chol Suh Kim, South Korean deputy minister of trade and industry, by Salih Zaytun; Seoul, date not specified]

[Text] Korea is highly interested in promoting trade with the Arab world. This Asian country has become conspicuously involved during the last 10 years in various Arab development plans, especially in the Arab East. This matter was the subject of a long interview that we held with one of the Korean economic decision-makers, Dr Chol Suh Kim, deputy minister of trade and industry.

The interview discussed with facts and figures the volume of trade between his country and the Arab world, Qatar in particular. It also touched on Korean economic philosophy.

Dr Kim says the balance of trade between Qatar and South Korea was about \$95.5 million, tilting in favor of Qatar, which supplied Korea with crude oil and petrochemicals in the amount of \$80 million while the Korean goods and products imported by Qatar were valued at \$5.5 [figures as published].

The Korean official explained that his country imports from Qatar mainly oil, polyethylene, and naphthalene and exports to Qatar tires, iron products, fabrics, and electronic components.

[Question] I asked Dr Kim about the possibility of developing relations between the two countries.

[Answer] Korea has long been striving to promote trade with Qatar since last year's visit to Korea of high highness the emir of Qatar. This task can be achieved and the businessmen in particular are participating in it, that is, the private sector in the two countries can stimulate trade relations markedly. At any rate, Korean construction companies have been participating from 1966 to the present in a number of Qatari projects, valued at \$500 million. These companies shared in the construction of many factories and building projects in Qatar in addition to similar projects in various Arab Gulf and other Arab states which have relied on Korean companies to complete their huge projects in record time.

[Question] Dr Kim admits that trade relations with Qatar and other Arab countries have not reached the desired stage of development. He explains:

[Answer] Oil imports in recent years constituted the largest bill paid by Korea, which does not produce this basic commodity required by modern industry. Nevertheless, Korea has not increased its oil imports in the last 3 years after the decline in oil prices and lowering of the trade level because of the world-wide recession. However, that does not prevent us from striving even more to stimulate Korean-Qatari and Korean-Arab relations in general until the trade balance, currently not in our favor, is rectified.

[Question] Given that your trade with the Arabs is based chiefly on oil, how do you envision the future of this strategic commodity?

[Answer] I can forecast the future of oil, but we are concerned with world-wide price stability because it will help our trade balance plans with the oil-producing states.

[Question] Can Qatari-Korean economic relations be considered a miniature model for Korean relations with the rest of the Arab states?

[Answer] Of course, we treat the Arab states as part of the Middle East, and we have trade relations with most of these states. In 1984 we exported to the Arab world goods worth \$2.8 billion and during the first 7 months of this year we exported \$1.4 billion worth. Since that amounted to a decline of 6 percent below last year compared with \$2.3 billion worth of imports from the Arab world, it constituted a deficit of 18 percent.

The building and construction field is considered to be among the most important fields of Korean-Arab cooperation. The contracts between Korean companies and Arab states concluded and signed up to 1983 are estimated at more than \$8 billion. They involved the participation of 87,000 Korean workers in economic development operations in the Arab world, especially in the road-building and port-improvement sectors, notably the contract signed with OAPEC to carry out the dry dock project in Bahrain which cost billions. This is in addition to contracts concluded by one company with Saudi Arabia in 1976 valued at about \$1 billion. There is a Korean contract also with one of the emirates to set up a company to sell industrial and chemical products.

[Question] It has been observed that aside from the oil bill, Korean activity is most conspicuous in trade. Is there any movement in the direction of encouraging cooperation with Arab businessmen for investment in Korea?

[Answer] We are trying to involve Arab businessmen in Korean economic activity. We welcome them as partners and expect them to participate in joint projects especially since the area for such activity is broad. This is in addition to the existence of other opportunities we can offer the Arabs, for example, providing medium technology at reasonable prices.

[Question] Some reports stated that trade between Korea and the Gulf region is affected by the Iraqi-Iranian war hazards. To what extent is this true?

[Answer] There is no doubt that we are clearly influenced by the effects of this war which is destructive first to both countries and then to the interests of others who rely chiefly on Gulf oil. However, we have tried to follow a balanced economic policy toward the two countries, exporting our products to both Iraq and Iran. We are still importing their oil, and perhaps the dangers of the war will impel Korea and other countries injured by its continuation to work harder to bring about peace between them. This will contribute, we believe, to the stimulation of economic activity in the region and the world as a whole.

[Question] Can you tell us something about the development plan now being carried out in your country?

[Answer] The current 5-year plan began in 1982 and will end next year, but we regard 1985 as the dividing line in our country's march to the 21st century because we are working energetically to broaden trade relations with the countries of the world, especially the United States, Japan, and Southeast Asian countries. We decided to concentrate on opposing tariffs which interfere with the expansion of trade with other countries. We are also trying to enlarge export markets and work on import restrictions. Nevertheless, we still feel that the excessive incurrence of debts is a hindrance to the management of our economy in addition to the fact that the level of national savings needed to settle our debts is still much lower than that of the competing countries. One of the reasons for this is that speculation in real estate requires a great deal of close supervision. Moreover, a high degree of negligence and waste are still prevalent in both the private and the public sectors.

[Question] In confronting these challenges, how can you work on the next 5-year plan which will bring you closer to the 21st century?

[Answer] During the next few years we will have to support the model of economic stability that we have felt in the current development plan. We must achieve it by putting an end to speculation in real estate, for example, debt which, like other such things, upsets economic stability. It may need harsh decisions requiring the imposition of comprehensive tax control to shrink parasitic revenues.

The government will also try to reduce its expenditures greatly by introducing far-reaching reforms to improve its performances according to the principle of the right man in the right place, by simplifying administrative routines, and by bringing about greater integration between small and large commercial organizations to guarantee balanced growth.

I believe the next development plan will include the adoption of vigorous measures to confront the challenges of advanced technology and the devising of suitable policies to embrace them by training skilled workers and making an advanced communications network widely accessible.

[Question] Can it be said that development activity in South Korea remains limited despite all the ambitious plans as long as the political challenges represented by the division of Korea and the military danger hovering over the region still persist?

[Answer] I cannot disagree with you, but we have tried both to carry on a dialogue with North Korea and to begin a series of meetings between the two sides by concentrating on economic issues. However, we have made no progress, although we have put forward ideas to promote trade relations between the two sides, because the North is fearful for its socialist experiment.

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S.KOREA/FOREIGN TRADE

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS SOUGHT TO EXPAND EC ECONOMIC TIES

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[Text] The government will focus its diplomatic efforts on expanding economic cooperation with the dozen EC member countries during this year, Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday.

They said that the EC countries have shown a positive response to this plan, which is eyed to reduce the emphasis the nation has been placing on its economic relations with the United States and Japan.

Korean and EC officials discussed the matter in Seoul when Willy de Clercq, EC commissioner for external affairs and trade policy, visited Seoul in November.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs Yu Chong-ha visited France, West Germany, and Italy and held a series of talks with officials there recently.

Assistant Minister Yu said that the transfer of technology and the active use of Korean technical manpower in European industrial markets had been given priority in his talks with EC officials.

"We proposed to the EC officials the utilization of our manpower, which is now facing a decline in demand in the construction market in the Middle East," he said.

The EC side welcomed the proposal and promised that it would encourage private firms to make use of Korean manpower to the greatest possible extent.

Skilled workers training in welding, pipe-laying and in operating and maintaining heavy equipment will have new opportunities for work in the European market, he said.

As for the transfer of technology, domestic industries are interested in leather processing, the manufacture of automobile parts, fabric printing and district heating.

Consultations are going on to promote technology transer between the small- and medium-size industries of both sides, he said.

Ministry officials said that they would endeavor to awaken local businessmen to the need to diversify their overseas partners.

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S.KOREA/FOREIGN TRADE

BRIEFS

JAPANESE TRADE MISSION VISIT--Seoul, Jan. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)--A Japanese mission to Korea began Thursday to explore investment possibilities in Pusan and the Masan free export zone on the southern coast. The 27-member mission, headed by Hisamitsu Uetani, chairman of the Yamaichi Securities Co., arrived here Monday. The Korean and Japanese finance ministries and a Korean-Japanese non-governmental joint economic committee arranged last year for the Japanese mission to come to Korea. The mission, which comprises officials from the Foreign Ministry, the International Trade and Industry Ministry, banks and securities firms, visited the Finance Ministry, and the Trade and Industry Ministry. They held discussions with Korean officials about Korea's investment policy for foreigners, the revised foreign capital inducement law, ways to foster medium- and small-sized businesses and capital liberalization. After studying ways to expedite the export of Korean goods to Japan and how to promote bilateral technological cooperation with Korean business concerns, the mission will return to Japan on Feb. 1. [Text [Seoul YONHAP in English 0529 GMT 30 Jan 86 SK] /6662

KOTRA REPORT ON 1985 EXPORTS--Seoul, Feb. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)--South Korea's exports last year totaled 30.27 billion U.S. dollars, up 3.5 percent from 1984, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) reported Tuesday. Its export growth rate of 3.5 percent last year surpassed the growth rates of other Asian countries. By comparison, the export growth rates of Japan and Taiwan were 3.3 percent and 0.9 percent respectively, while that of Singapore decreased by 5.3 percent, according to the KOTRA. In 1985, Japan exported 175.64 billion dollars worth of commodities, followed by Taiwan (30.71 billion dollars) and Singapore (22.81 billion dollars). Japan recorded its largest trade surplus last year, mainly because of sharp increases in exports to the United States and China. Its trade surplus increased by 37 percent in 1985. Singapore's exports fell substantially, however, due to the excess supply of major export items, including shipbuilding and electronics products, in international markets and the strength of the Singaporean dollar. Korea's imports increased by 1.3 percent last year, while the imports of other countries declined. Taiwan's imports decreased by 8.4 percent, those of Singapore fell by 8.3 percent and those of Japan dropped by 5.1 percent, according to the KOTRA. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 0220 GMT 4 Feb 86 SK] /6662

TRADE MINISTER TO SWISS ECONOMIC MEETING--Seoul, Jan. 29 (OANA-YONHAP)--South Korean Trade and Industry Minister Kum Chin-ho left here Wednesday evening for Davos, Switzerland, to participate in an informal gathering of world economic leaders, the ministry announced. The symposium, scheduled for Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, will be hosted by the European Management Forum. Attending the meeting will be at least 50 high-ranking officials, including U.S. Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige, and about 800 business leaders from both developed and developing countries. Kum plans to explain Korea's trade policies and call for a reduction in trade protectionism, a ministry official said. Kum is scheduled to return to Korea on Feb. 5. [Text] [Seoul YONHAP in English 1108 GMT 29 Jan 86 SK] /6662

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